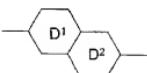


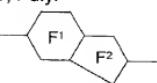
- 5 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrazine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F,



- 10 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which can be monosubstituted or disubstituted by F or CN and in which D¹ or D² may also be a (saturated) alicycle



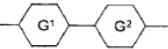
- 15 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN, or unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl



- 20 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, indan-1-one-2,6-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, benzothiazole-2,6-diyl, benzothiazole-2,5-diyl, benzo[b]thiophene-2,5-diyl, benzo[b]thiophene-2,6-diyl



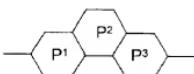
- 25 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of (1,3,4)-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, (1,3)-thiazole-2,5-diyl, thiophene-2,5-diyl, (1,3,4)-oxadiazole-2,5-diyl, (1,3)-oxazole-2,5-diyl, isoxazole-2,5-diyl



- 30 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of 1,1'-biphenyl-4,4'-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN, or unsubstituted, monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F

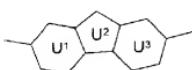
trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F, 1,1'-phenylcyclohexyl-4,4'-diyl, 5,5'-pyridylpyrimidine-2,2'-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F in one or both of the heterocycles, 5,2'-pyridylpyrimidine-2,5'-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F in one or both of the heterocycles,

- 5 1,2'-phenyldioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(2-fluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(3-fluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl, 1,2'-(2,3-difluorophenyl)dioxane-4,5'-diyl



is a bivalent phenanthrene-2,7-diyl radical in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be

- 10 monosubstituted, disubstituted, trisubstituted or tetrasubstituted by F and in which P² and/or P³ may be a (saturated) alicycle



is a bivalent fluorene-2,7-diyl radical in which the -CH₂- group in U² may be replaced by -C(=O)-, -CHF- or -CF₂-

15



is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F, cyclohexane-1,3-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F or CN, pyridine-2,6-diyl, pyridine-2,4-diyl, pyridine-3,5-diyl, pyridine-4,6-diyl, pyrimidine-4,6-diyl,

- 20



is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by CN, CH₃, or disubstituted by F, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, perfluorocyclohexane-1,4-diyl,

- 25

bicyclo[2.2.2]-octane-1,4-diyl.



is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or

30

- F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octane-1,4-diyl, (1,3)-dioxane-2,5-diyl, pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or mono-substituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, (1,3,4)-thiadiazole-2,5-diyl, indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, thiophene-2,5-diyl



- 5 is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of phenylene-1,4-diyl, unsubstituted, monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, naphthalene-2,6-diyl, in which one or two ring carbon atoms may be replaced by N and which may be monosubstituted or disubstituted by CN or F, cyclohexane-1,4-diyl, cyclohex-1-ene-1,4-diyl, bicyclo[2.2.2]octane-1,4-diyl, (1,3)-dioxane-2,5-diyl, indane-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted, mono-substituted or disubstituted by F in the aromatic ring, thiophene-2,5-diyl
- 10 p, q, s are each zero or 1
r is 1 or 2.

The following meanings are preferred:

- 15 in (II), is a bivalent radical selected from the group of pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F
- 20 Z^1, Z^2 are both H or both F
 R^{10}, R^{11} are, independently of one another, identical or different and are each hydrogen or a straight-chain or branched alkyl or alkoxy radical (with or without asymmetric carbon atoms) having 2 - 16 carbon atoms, where one or two nonterminal -CH₂- groups may be replaced by -CH=CH-, -OC(=O)-, -C(=O)O- and one or more H atoms may be replaced by F
- 25 with the proviso that only one of the radicals R^{10}, R^{11} can be hydrogen

- 30 in (III), is a bivalent radical selected from the group consisting of pyridine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F, pyrimidine-2,5-diyl, unsubstituted or monosubstituted by F